

April 15, 1991

SOCIETY FOR ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES
(SAAPHI)
P. O. Box 95031
Atlanta, GA (30347-0031)

Dear Colleague:

Over the past two decades, many African-American Biostatisticians, Epidemiologists, and other Public Health Scientists, have had numerous conversations regarding the need and importance of improving our communication links, particularly for sharing ideas about studies in the African-American community. For many years informal mechanisms were sufficient because our numbers were small; however, in the past six years we have seen a continuing increase in our number.

Now there is tremendous benefit to be gained by gathering to discuss mutual public health interests and concerns. An Ad Hoc Executive Committee was formed at a meeting held in Atlanta on February 11, to begin work to establish an active group of persons interested in applying the public health sciences to needs of the African-American community. The name chosen for this effort is the SOCIETY FOR ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES (SAAPHI).

On November 9-10, 1991, following the annual meeting of the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) in Atlanta and prior to the American Public Association (APHA) annual meeting, the SAAPHI Ad Hoc Executive Committee will host a conference to begin formal establishment of the Society. A business meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10, to install the first officers. We need your participation!

To assist now, we ask you to become a Founding Member. The annual membership contribution is \$20. Checks should be made payable to the SAAPHI and sent to:

SAAPHI
PO Box 95031
Atlanta, GA 30347-0031

In addition, a brief questionnaire is enclosed to collect some basic information. Please join us now and in Atlanta this fall.

Sincerely,

Bill Jenkins

Bill Jenkins, Ph.D., M.P.H.

ANNOUNCEMENT

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 7-8, 1991

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

THEME: MORBIDITY/MORTALITY GAP: IS IT RACE OR RACISM?

This meeting will focus on disparities in health status between minority and non-minority populations, with respect to outcome such as infant mortality, low birthweight, heart disease, stroke, cancer, injuries, cirrhosis, diabetes, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Particular emphasis will be given to the influence of lifestyle (including nutrition, exercise and sexual practices), addiction (including tobacco, alcohol and other drugs) and environment (including psychosocial, physical, and economic circumstances). The importance of looking at "intervenable" etiologic factors, including social-cultural and stress will be emphasized. Other areas of special interest include: 1) access or lack of access to prevention and treatment; 2) the reasons for the disparities and the cost and/or other implications to society; 3) prevention and intervention strategies that work for different cultures; 4) the effect of community or lack of community empowerment; and 5) promoting public health careers among minority students. Abstracts that go further than observing that there are differences due to color and which seek to establish the etiology of disease are especially encouraged.

The meeting will feature:

- *Invited addresses by key public health officials
- *Invited scientific presentation by leading investigators
- *Contributed scientific papers and posters
- *Student award paper presentation
- *Lilienfeld Award for Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS,
CONTACT:

Gladys H. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Chair, ACE Program Committee
Office of the Director (MS A50)
Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
(404) 639-2195 (Fax)

To be considered for presentation at this meeting, five copies of the abstract should be mailed no later than June 28, 1991. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be notified by August 16, 1991.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the American College of Epidemiology annual meeting a workshop on "Closing the Gap through Community Intervention" will be held November 9-10, 1991, in Atlanta, Georgia. This workshop will be jointly sponsored by the American College of Epidemiology, the Black Caucus of Health Workers of the American Public Health Association, and the newly formed Society for Analysis of African-American Public Health Issues. Participants may attend either one or both days of the workshop. The first day of the workshop, to be held at the Centers for Disease Control, is a continuing medical education program for which CME credits will be awarded (registration fee = \$85). The program will focus on planning, monitoring, assessing interventions in communities, particularly communities of color. Special emphasis will be placed on those interventions executed by community based organizations. Afternoon workshops will include case studies of community interventions: e.g., 1) an international project, 2) an HIV prevention project, 3) a CHD intervention and 4) a teen pregnancy program. The training will be particularly relevant to public health workers, administrative, and researchers involved with community interventions and their assessment. The second day of the workshop, to be held at Spelman College, will include an overview of current issues in public health interventions in African-American communities by nationally known speakers in the morning session. The afternoon session will include three working meetings to develop an agenda for actions in 1) development of new African-American researchers, 2) effective utilization of current data, and 3) production of new data studies. For more information, interested individuals should contact Dr. Clark Heath, American Cancer Society, 1599 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30329.